

INFORMATION



Pandemic Flu and Child Care

There is much talk about pandemic flu lately. Although it's not here, chances are that it will come. It may spread quickly and affect child care programs in various ways. *Are you preparing?*

Many things that you already do every day help reduce the spread of disease:

- ✓ Handwashing! Handwashing! Handwashing!
- ✓ Staying home when you are sick (see the WAC or health dept. posters for details)
- ✓ Sending children home when they are sick
- ✓ Using a tissue (or a sleeve, in a pinch) to catch a sneeze and throwing away used tissues in a wastebasket – and washing hands afterward
- ✓ Maintaining *current* emergency contact information for all children & staff in your program
- ✓ Keeping an illness log of sick children (& staff), including those reported by parents

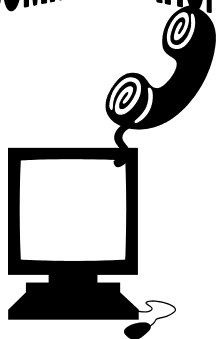
PREPARATION



If a pandemic occurs, child care may eventually be closed by public health authorities. Stay informed and take action before this happens:

- ✓ Encourage staff and parents to have enough supplies at home for 1–2 weeks (including food, water, medications for chronic illness and fever reduction, and other essentials such as toilet paper and soap)
- ✓ Have a plan for operating with less staff (you may need to close rooms)
- ✓ Encourage parents to have a back-up plan for child care
- ✓ Consider how you will continue as a business if you have to be closed for a period of weeks.

COMMUNICATION



Do you have more questions or would you like more information? Contact your Public Health Nurse Consultant from the Child Care Health Program at 206-296-2770 or visit the following websites:

Pandemic Flu Fact Sheet:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/health/prevcont/pandemic-flu.htm>

Child Care Planning Checklist:

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/preschool.html>

INFECTION CONTROL

